

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When reproduction is requested from an external connection apparatus in a state where a recording medium is loaded in a reader, a read operation is initiated. A content request is issued to the recording medium.

- 5 On the part of the recording medium, after the request is received, a voltage measurement unit measures the voltage of an accumulation unit. It is assumed that the allowed period of reproduction has expired when the measured value is below a predetermined value. An expiration notification is issued to the content reader. Then, the process ends. Thus, the content
- 10 recorded in the recording medium can be reliably prevented from being used improperly after the usage expiration term.